

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1 and 21 are hereby cancelled. Claims 2, 19, 22 and 23 are amended. Claim 1 and claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 2-10, 22, and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicant appreciates the Examiner's action indicating claims 2-17 and 22-23 are in condition for allowance except for the formal matters addressed herein.

In an interview summary of September 24, 2003, the Examiner indicated that all §112 claim objections are dropped. This leaves claims 11-17 allowed, and claims 2-10, 22 and 23 allowable.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings; specifically, Figs. 2 and 3. As required the "prior art" label on Fig. 3 has been removed and X(0) and X(1) has been added to Fig. 2 as described in the specification on page 9, line 24 [note mistaken observation--X(2) should be X(1)]. Enclosed herewith are substitute formal drawings and annotated drawings indicating the changes.

The Examiner also has objected to informalities in the disclosure; specifically, that on page 9, line 7, "generator 114" should read "generator 112." Appropriate corrections have been made to the specification and are submitted for review.

The Examiner has rejected claims 18, 20 and 21 as unpatentable over Wegerich, et al, in view of Mahajan et al. Applicant respectfully points out the Mahajan does not teach a lensing similarity as claimed in these claims, but merely alludes to similarity operations broadly. Furthermore, Applicant would respectfully suggest there is no basis for combining Wegerich et al, which relates to equipment health monitoring, with Mahajan, et al, which

relates to speech recognition, because the fields are so disparate. Therefore, Applicant maintains that claims 18, 20 and 21 in original form are patentable over the art as cited.

The reasons for allowable subject matter stated by the Examiner refer to only some of the patentable features in some of the independent claims and are not the only reasons that the claims are allowable. It is believed that the independent claims include additional patentable features or combinations of features not noted by the Examiner. Also, each of the dependent claims may include additional patentable features or combinations of features not addressed by the Examiner.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the examiner would like to discuss Applicant's invention prior to issuing an action, the Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned attorney.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant has placed the case in condition for reconsideration and respectfully requests allowance of pending claims 2-20 and claims 2, 19, 22 and 23 as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

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